



The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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Newer Expanded Edition of the E-Gobrecht

In case you haven't noticed, let me point something out. During the past few months the size and content of the *E-Gobrecht* has grown with ever increasing contributions by you, the readers.

First, I wish to accentuate a number of long-time running columns that continue to provide us a valuable service.

- Jim Gray's Auction News. Jim, with his able assistant Carole Ross, have been summarizing and reporting the previous month's public auction highlights of Liberty Seated coinage for many years now. The feedback I've received is his regular column is a key feature of the *E-Gobrecht* and I am sure that I can express the gratitude of the readers for his stalwart effort.
- Paul Kluth's Question of Month. Paul continues to pose interesting questions to the readers. Although he and I wish for better responses to his queries, we appreciate those that take the time and effort to write back. For those of you who always thought you should respond, please consider submitting something. Others enjoy reading the various responses and everyone has something worthwhile to report.

Three new columns have appeared during the past few months.

- Gerry Fortin's Regional News started a few months ago. Look for developments of club promotional events and reports of local LSCC activities in your area.
- Len Augsburger's The Budget Collector premiered last month. He reveals with examples how, with a limited budget, you can still accumulate an attractive, seated collection of merit.
- Greg Johnson's Quarter Dollar Varieties debuts this month and details examples of the many interesting die varieties of the seated quarter series. Look for informative reports in this column.

Many thanks to these five club members and the many contributors who submit periodic articles - your support to the LSCC and the *E-Gobrecht* are greatly appreciated. If you've ever wanted to write and publish something but felt reluctance, now is a great time to share what you have to say. - Editor.

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The *E-Gobrecht* is a twice award winning electronic publication of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC). The LSCC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the attributions of the Liberty Seated Coin series. The LSCC provides the information contained in this email newsletter from various sources free of charge as a general service to the membership and others with this numismatic interest. You do not have to be a LSCC member to benefit from this newsletter; subscription to the *E-Gobrecht* is available to anyone. All disclaimers are in effect as the completeness and/or accuracy of the information contained herein cannot be completely verified. Contact information is included at the end.



Auction News

by Jim Gray, LSCC #664

May was very slow with the **Stack's** Nashville Sale being the only auction of note.

An 1856-S quarter with nice russet toning in VF25 sold for \$1,150 and an 1861-S quarter in XF40 with gray toning hammered for \$4,025. A cleaned AU+ 1866-S quarter did not sell.

The 1871-CC half dollar from my collection with AU details sold for \$2,185. In a footnote,

Stacks said for some reason a metal analysis was attached to the envelope showing that the coin consisted of 97.4% silver, 2.3% copper and .2% nickel. As a buyer, I think I would be interested in the fact that this coin was struck from pure unrefined Comstock Lode ore.

An 1855 dollar in MS61 with nice iridescent toning did not sell, nor did an 1872-CC in VF20 with natural gray toning.

Upcoming LSCC Meetings and Events

- June 17-19, 2010** Whitman Coin & Collectibles **Baltimore, MD** Expo
LSCC Table and Exhibits, Booth 1148
- June 18, 2010** Whitman Coin & Collectibles **Baltimore, MD** Expo
Friday, 9 AM, room 301. (LSCC Regional meeting)
- July 10, 2010** F.U.N. Orange County Convention Center, **Orlando, FL**
Saturday, 9 AM, room TBD. (LSCC Regional meeting)
- August 12, 2010** World's Fair of Money, **Boston, MA** ANA Convention
Thursday, 9 AM, room TBD. (LSCC Annual meeting)
- October 29, 2010** October 2010 CoinFest, **Stamford, CT**
Friday, 9 AM, room TBD. (LSCC Regional meeting)





Question of the Month

Topic for e-Discussion by Paul Kluth, LSCC #1994

A DAILY DOUBLE THIS MONTH

It's that time of year when we again turn the column over to the readers so they can ask the questions they would like to ask.

Question #1: Is there a Question you would like to see asked of the readers?

Maybe you would like to learn what others have found regarding a particular date/mintmark, grade, variety, die pairing or die state, etc on a Liberty Seated denomination? Is there another topic you would like to gather information about? Are there any good Liberty Seated Dollar questions out there that can be posted? Let it fly!

Question #2: The Annual ANA Convention in Boston is fast approaching. Are you going? Are you planning to attend the LSCC annual meeting? What are you most interested in seeing at this year's ANA?

Special Footnote: If you forgot to respond to a prior month's question and would like to respond later, you can always do so. Late responses are always welcome as well as responses to other's responses.

All responses are welcome! Please consider taking a few moments and sending in your thoughts and opinions. Send your reply to the *E-Gobrecht* editor at wb8cpy@arrl.net.

Club Table in Baltimore

The Whitman folks have once again offered us a free table on the bourse floor for exhibition purposes. It is table 1148 at the Baltimore Expo, June 17-19, stop by for a visit!

If you are interested in exhibiting, please let me know ASAP. You need not exhibit for the whole time, just let me know which days you are interested in.

I'd like to reserve one case for a "Tribute to Toners." Please consider bringing along a few of your toned coins for this part of the exhibit.

Thanks, Len Augsburger, Secretary/Treasurer, [LSCC leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com](mailto:LSCC_leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com)



Answer to last Month's Question

What counterfeits have you seen in your collecting travels?



From **Gene Bruder**: Funny that I just read the article on counterfeit seated coins. I just purchased a fake 1863-S dime a couple of weeks ago at a local shop. I bought it as an original coin, just probably dug up somewhere (I was in a hurry).

When I got it home, and dropped it out of the holder, I knew it was a fake immediately, as it felt light (weighed 2.0 gm), and had a nice thunk when dropped. I sold it to a dealer who collects fakes at Central States, but I have pictures which I have attached. Use them as you wish.

From **Bill Bugert**: I have a few contemporary counterfeit half dollars in my reference collection. Here is one of my favorites, an 1877-S of unknown metal purchased off eBay a few years ago.





Regional News

by Gerry Fortin, LSCC #1054

Dear fellow LSCC members,

I'm happy to report that our regional directors immediately went to work and planned several new LSCC regional meetings. These meetings provide a special venue for club members to meet, socialize and share their seated coinage collecting passions. Following is the latest regional meeting details from Craig Eberhart (Regional West), Jason Feldman (Regional South) and Dennis Fortier (Regional East). I've listed each regional director's email address in the event that E-Gobrecht readers have questions or wish to lend a helping hand. Also remember that the LSCC still needs a volunteer to take over management of Central region activities.

West Region - Craig Eberhart (craig@eberhart.us)

Craig reports that he will hold an LSCC regional meeting at the Long Beach Coin, Stamp and Collectibles Expo on Friday June 4 at 9:00am in room 102c. Please check the Long Beach show program or email Craig directly for additional information since the lead time to organize the meeting is quite short. We will also post the LSCC regional meeting time and location on LSCC message board (<http://seateddimes.yuku.com/bseateddimes>).

South Region - Jason Feldman (jasonfeldman@gmail.com)

Jason has organized an LSCC regional meeting for the upcoming 4th Annual Summer FUN Convention (July 8-10) in Orlando. The meeting date, location and time will be announced in the July E-Gobrecht and on the LSCC message board. Jason plans to give a presentation on seated half dimes. Depending on attendance level, the presentation may be formal or simply circling the chairs for an informal review of seated half dimes and good

interactive dialogue. Jason is also working to secure a complimentary LSCC table and offering educational material for YNs

East Region - Dennis Fortier (ricajun@msn.com)

Dennis has arranged for an LSCC regional meeting at the October 2010 CoinFest show in Stamford, CT. The LSCC regional meeting is scheduled for October 29, 9:00am with meeting room to be announced. This is the first time that the LSCC will attempt to bring together its club members outside of Whitman Baltimore show or the ANA Summer Convention when it appears on East Coast. To support the CoinFest initiative, Dennis secured a complimentary table for the LSCC to exhibit and I've agreed to exhibit my Liberty Seated Dime PCGS registry set at the table.

Please consider attending one of the above LSCC regional meeting and providing your support to our regional directors.

In addition to the regional meeting news, Dennis Fortier expressed a keen interest in developing Young Numismatist (YN) programs with respect to seated coinage. The ANA has active YN education programs which address the more general aspects of coin collecting. Dennis suggests that the LSCC membership consider possible approaches and strategies for implementing its own YN programs. Jason Feldman has also brought this subject to my attention during email conversations. As a result of the dialogue, I asked Dennis to assemble ideas in an article for the Regional News column and I am most pleased with the following discussion by Dennis. We hope that Dennis is able to stimulate more club member dialogue on potential YN educational programs.



The Budget Collector: Seated Deals & Steals Under a Hundred Dollars

Second in a Series

By Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271



This month we examine an 1858-O dime, recently acquired by an LSCC member for \$75 on a well-known auction website. He grades it EF45, and I will take his word for it. I've been collecting seated quarters exclusively for a long time, and readily confess my ignorance at grading anything else. Gerry Fortin indicates that there is only one die pair for the 1858-O dime, and he should know, since he could probably tell just by looking at the mintmark what the date is. In any case, there is no variety action on this coin – it is strictly a date & mintmark play. In terms of strike, Brian Greer notes in his book that the head often comes weak, and such is the case here.

Curiously, there is currently a seller on eBay offering a “replica 1858-O Seated Liberty one dime,” at the bargain price of \$3.99. The word “replica” is

stamped in the left obverse field, and the workmanship seems reasonably good. Happily, the coin purchased by the LSCC member has been certified by PCGS and there is no question as to authenticity. As for why anyone would counterfeit an 1858-O dime, with many more exotic targets to choose from, I have no idea. Perhaps it was a “practice” coin before trying something else, or perhaps it is so cheap to produce these it just doesn't matter anymore.

The 2009 Red Book suggests a value of \$135 in EF condition (my Whitman publisher is gonna be upset that I haven't purchased a 2010 Red Book yet – sorry Dennis!), which is a good start, but I always like to check the Heritage auction prices realized archive as well. There is one comparable

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Quarter of the Month

By Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

It is with great enthusiasm that I begin what is planned as a monthly column regarding Liberty Seated Quarter die varieties. The intent is to offer a brief description, some photographs, and a few facts, opinions or stories

regarding the monthly coin-of-interest. There are, literally, hundreds of coins to choose from. Seated quarter varieties cover the spectrum from merely scarce to excessively rare, from obscure to listed-in-the-red-book, and from immediately obvious to very subtle. It is an intriguing and nearly endless area for numismatic study.

The first Quarter of the Month is a rather obscure, rare, and very interesting die pairing of the 1843-O. The feature one immediately notices about this coin is the extremely polished reverse die (listed as reverse E in Briggs' *The Complete Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters*).



Note in the picture above the complete lack of tail feathers and the missing feathers at the top of the eagle's left wing. The first example I located,

several years ago, was a rather harshly cleaned example with uncirculated details. Its initial appearance was so striking that I thought it was counterfeit; it didn't look like a seated quarter reverse at first glance. After determining that it was indeed genuine, I considered purchasing the coin despite the significant problem. The asking price persuaded me to pass. Over the past 3-4 years, while diligently working on a die marriage set of '43-O quarters, I have located no more than six examples of this particular die pairing. Interestingly, all six examples have had XF or better details.

This reverse die is easily identifiable, not only by the die polishing, but also because of the unique mintmark position. There are six known reverse dies for the '43-O quarter – five small O and one large O. Amongst the five small O reverses, one has the mintmark just right of the crotch between feathers and olive branch, one is centered, two are very slightly left, and the present reverse die (E) is the only one located completely to the left of the crotch. The other four small O reverses all pair with Briggs' obverse 1, reverse E pairs with Briggs' obverse die 2 and is the only reverse known to be paired with that obverse die. The distinctions between obverses 1 and 2 are subtle and will not be considered here. Though the sample size is very small (six pieces) it also appears that, like many coins from highly polished dies, this reverse generally comes proof-like in appearance.

The 1843-O quarter, as a date and mintmark, is a very scarce coin in high grade or problem free condition. In addition to the usual problems such as harsh cleanings and holes with which early seated coins are frequently found, the '43-O is also plagued with poor strikes, heavily rusted dies, and poor quality planchets. It is interesting to note that reverse E, discussed and pictured here, does not appear to have been used prior to being heavily polished. The unique mintmark location would make attribution of such an early, pre-polishing, die state fairly straightforward. One can speculate that since dies were

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The Budget Collector (Continued from page 6)

piece listed here, an ICG-certified VF35 coin which sold for \$126.50 in February, 2009. Remarkably, this is the only no-problem VF/EF coin in the list, which goes back to the mid-1990s. On the other hand, there are a number of uncirculated examples which have been sold in the last few years.

Next, it's on to our favorite seated dealers to check out their inventory listings. Rich Uhrich has five of them, the highest in F15. Dick Osburn has two, both VG. Brian Greer has one, F15. So, it looks like what we have here is a coin that is not that scarce in an absolute sense, readily available in low grades or in unc, but not in the middle grades. I suspect dime collectors putting together middle-grade sets probably realized this a long time ago. The con-

dition rarity profile is similar to the 1901-S quarter – available in low or high grades, more difficult in middle grades.

Despite all the data out there, there is still room for investigation. Gerry Fortin added comments on the die state, indicating that “the reverse has a thick and wide mintmark which is atypical against the normal thin O mintmark that I've seen....[there is] the possibility that die wear results in the mintmark becoming larger during late die state.”

So there you have it – a tough seated coin to find, in a PCGS EF45 holder, a new research project, and all for less than a hundred bucks.

Large E-Gobrecht File Size

Editor's comment: With the increasing number of quality images with the articles in the past few issues of the *E-Gobrecht*, the file size has been growing to such a large size that some internet service providers are rejecting it. I have been taking steps to reduce the file size but some ISPs still reject it. Please remember that if you don't receive the *E-Gobrecht* within a few days after the first of every month, it can be found on Gerry Fortin's website at:

<http://www.seateddimevarieties.com/LSCC.htm>

Quarter of the Month (Continued from page 7)

made in Philadelphia and shipped to New Orleans, this particular die most likely rusted quite heavily prior to its first use in the coining process and was therefore polished prior to that initial use.

Obviously, each single die pairing of the '43-O must be considered rare in the sense that it represents one of 5 or 6 (depending on whether the Large O die is included) used to produce a very scarce coin. The small number of examples of reverse E seen over a several year period would seem to corroborate this view. Though not broken down by die pairing, it is nevertheless interesting and perhaps instructive to look at population reports and Heritage auction records for the '43-O quarter. Population data for NGC and PCGS indicate that the two ser-

vices have graded a total of 77 examples in all grades, 12 of those are mint state coins, and 27 are in the AU grades. Larry Briggs, in *The Complete Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters*, states that the '43-O (small O only) is R6 (13-30 known) in mint state and R4 (76-250 known) in XF/AU. An examination of the Heritage auction archive shows that they have offered only 23 unique examples of the '43-O small O quarter in problem free grades during the archive's 15 year history. Only three of those coins were die marriage 2-e, featuring the reverse die illustrated above. It is reasonable to conclude that any attractive and problem free '43-O quarter in XF or better is a very scarce and numismatically desirable item. One just might find a neat and unusual die pairing in the bargain, too.



Gerry Fortin wins ANA Summer Seminar Scholarship

Gerry Fortin is one of three lucky PCGS Set Registry members to be selected to receive scholarships to the popular American Numismatic Association Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs, Colorado this year. The ANA (www.money.org) and the Professional Coin Grading Service (www.PCGS.com) are jointly offering tuition, meals, lodging and airfare for each of the three to attend one of the two week-long Summer Seminar sessions.

The winners, who will be attending an ANA Summer Seminar for the first time, are Christopher Bryan, James M. Bucki Sr., and Gerry Fortin.

"Winners were selected based on their set display and a brief explanation of why they should be selected for a scholarship," said BJ Searls, Set Registry Manager.

Fortin's set, "The Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated Dime Collection," is listed under Liberty Seated Dimes with Major Varieties, Circulation Strikes (1837 - 1891).

"Gerry has been researching and collecting Liberty Seated Dimes for many years, and as a result has become an expert in the field," said Searls. "He's published a web-book on the subject (www.SeatedDimeVarieties.com), and is the IT and Marketing Director for the Liberty Seated Collectors Club. From his ANA experience he hopes to pick up the tools to develop a course on Liberty Seated coinage and variety research. His entry provided detailed information about each coin in his set and an image of each coin."

"Summer Seminar is the best educational experience in numismatics," said ANA Executive Director Larry Shepherd when the joint ANA-PCGS scholarships were announced in April. "Our students learn from the best instructors in the hobby, interact with fellow numismatists, make new friends, expand their knowledge and, each year, find something new to get excited about."

This year's two ANA Summer Seminar sessions will be conducted Saturday, June 26 to Friday, July 2, and from Saturday, July 3 to Friday, July 9. Winners now will select which seminar session they want to attend and design their own curriculum from available classes.

The 2010 ANA Summer Seminar catalog with detailed descriptions of this year's available courses and additional information about ANA Summer Seminar is [available online](#).

Congratulations, Gerry!

Now Available - Carson City Half Dollar Book ***A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Die Varieties*** ***Volume II*** ***Carson City Branch Mint*** **By Bill Bugert**

- With Special Edits by, Consultations with, and Featuring the CC Collection of Randy Wiley
- Details all Carson City Branch Mint Liberty Seated Half Dollar die marriages (96) with narratives, photos of diagnostics, rarity ratings, background information, etc.
- Includes over 900 photographs
- Has 220 pages in 8.5 by 11 inch size
- Printed on high quality 100# anthem gloss paper
- Available in plastic comb binding or 3-hole punched formats (ready for your binder)
- \$45 plus \$5 postage
- [Available for shipment now.](#)
- Order directly from the author (*please specify format*) at:

Bill Bugert
1230 Red Rock Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325



Steve Sannes' 1859-S Seated Dime Discovery in Holcomb Valley - Big Bear City, California

By Gerry Fortin, LSCC #1054

On May 3, I received an email from Steve Sannes requesting advice on possibilities for disposition of an 1859-S Liberty Seated dime that he unearthed the previous day. This is not the first time that I've been contacted with the discovery of a seated dime by a metal detector enthusiast and frankly expected the discovery piece to be either corroded or being cleaned to remove debris. I was pleasantly surprised when Steve sent along the following image of his 1859-S dime. In the initial correspondence, Steve stated, *"I found this dime yesterday with my metal detector in Holcomb Valley near Big Bear City, California. I can see that the coin I found is in very good condition. I have spoken to a few coin brokers and I have been advised to get it graded. I have attached pictures of the dime. It has not been cleaned. It looks just like it did when I unearthed it from its resting place 8 inches below the surface."*



From the images, it became immediately evident that Steve's find was not your typical metal detector discovery and further publicity was warranted given the rarity of the 1859-S date and the surviving condition of the piece.

I suggested a grade range of EF40-45 for Steve's dime considering the obverse exhibits strike weakness at Liberty's head, shoulder and on Stars 9 through 13. The wreath leaves on the reverse are marginally struck also. But what struck me (no pun intended) was the condition of the obverse and reverse fields for a dime that probably sat in the ground for close to 150 years! The fields are smooth with no obvious signs of pitting or other environmental damage. There is a small "dig" in the upper left wreath leaf above N in ONE but otherwise the dime appeared problem free. Given the dime's amazing condition, Steve was advised to submit the dime to PCGS for certification which he prompted did.

Author's note; 1859-S date mintage is 60,000 pieces. PCGS 1859-S certified population is 41 pieces total with 9 graded EF, 9 as AU and only 3 in Mint State.

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During further correspondence with Steve, we discussed how this 1859-S dime could have survived in a buried state without incurring some type of environmental damage. Steve's response was, *"The soil holds metal very well in the Holcomb Valley. Square nails have been recovered in near perfect condition. I have even found square tacks with boot leather still attached. A friend found a can inside of a can with an old miners claim inside from the late 1800's. I wasn't too surprised at the coin's condition because of that."* Following are two pictures taken from the Holcomb Valley location by Steve Sannes immediately after the discovery.



These next images illustrate the 1859-S Seated dime next to other artifacts (nails) retrieved from the same general area. Note the preservation state of the iron nails and the obviously lack of corrosion.



Seeking more information about Holcomb Valley, Wikipedia provides the following insight;

Holcomb Valley, located about five miles north of Big Bear Lake, was the site of the most gold in Southern California. It was named after William F. Holcomb, who discovered gold there and staked a claim in May 1860. That year started the largest gold rush in Southern California to the area. Holcomb Valley produced the most wealth of any Southern California area. With time, major placer and quartz mining declined, followed by the departure of most of the population of Belleville, a boomtown that grew up near Holcomb Valley and flourished through 1870 before eventually being abandoned. Hard rock mining contin-

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Auction House Blues (Lessons Learned)

By Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

I've got those auction house blues, from my head to my shoes... (Adapted from Hoagy Carmichael). In a recent auction conducted by a major auction house an 1841-O Liberty Seated Half Dollar with the rare Baseball Die Crack was auctioned and failed to meet the reserve. This is not unusual, many lots fail to meet their reserve and do not sell. What is unusual is the usual way the auction house listed the lot and is the reason for its not selling.

I had examined several of the lots in that auction, concentrating on some Carson City issues. I have been focused lately on trying to complete a short set of Carson City Seated Half Dollars. I had looked at the 1841-O, ICG F-15, Baseball Die Crack but I didn't give it much consideration as I believed it would sell for more than I could afford at the present time. Bill Bugert says the known population of the 1841-O Baseball Die Crack Liberty Seated Half Dollar is only 40 pieces.

The coin itself was accurately graded, F-15, just missing the VF grade. Circulation marks were well within acceptable standards for the grade. Toning was pleasing and original. A very nice problem free example of this rare and sought after variety/die state. It should have sold at auction and for more than the reserve but did not. I suppose it happens from time to time that knowledgeable collectors for many different reasons are not watching a given lot. I myself was not.

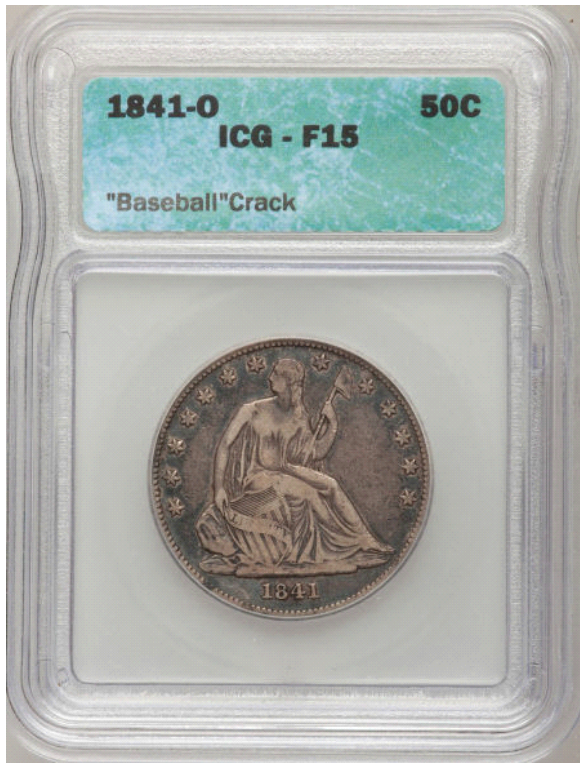
I was talking to a fellow LSCC member at a coin show the day after the auction and he mentioned to me that the 1878-S Liberty Seated Half Dollar that was also in that auction did not sell. I went on line to see how much the "buy it now" price was for the 1878-S (curious) and what the Carson City issues sold for when I noticed the 1841-O Baseball Die Crack did not sell and it had what I thought was a very reasonable "buy it now" price. I immediately went to the website of a well known Liberty Seated dealer to hopefully compare the price and better gauge the value. As it turned out he had an 1841-O

Baseball Die Crack in the same grade and even the same grading company. It was priced much higher than the "buy it now" price listed on the auction website. That told me that my original estimate of the coin's value and expected sale price was correct. I bought the coin and counted myself very lucky. That might be the end of the story but for some further thought and observation that I wish to share with my fellow LSCC members.

The coin was listed by the auction house with the "Baseball Die Crack" and the ICG slab also said Baseball Crack. So far so good, however the auction house listed the usual information on price lists and population reports. This is where the trouble began. The population reports listed 158 coins in higher grade. This of course is out of all proportion. The known population for the 1841-O Baseball Die Crack is only 40 examples. Another problem was the price lists; they ranged from a low of \$60 to a high of \$78, how could that be for such a rare coin? What was the reason for these misleading reports that buyers count on?

The answer is very simple, the auction house listed the population reports and price lists for the entire mintage of the 1841-O Liberty Seated Half Dollar with no consideration for the rarity of the Baseball die crack. This was a critical error on the part of the auction house. It was a great injustice to the consignor and a great stroke of luck for me. Potential buyers not schooled in the series saw those inaccurate reports and failed to bid up to the reserve. The moral to the story is when you go to consign your rare and valuable coins with an auction house make sure they understand the rarity of the coins and they take care to list them properly so they will sell for a fair price.

See the images of this wonderful find on the next page.



1841-O “Baseball Crack” Images courtesy of Heritage.com

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ued at the Gold Mountain Mine until 1919. Some mining activity continues today, with 2,000 claims by hobbyists.

Steve Sannes' Biography

Paul "Steven" Sannes is 44 and has been married for 22 years to his wife Mary. They have 3 sons including Steven 26, who is a pastor in Corona, California, Paul 21, US Navy and Joshua 15. Steve is a Foreman General with the Union Pacific Railroad at the Colton Service track. When growing up, his father took the family gold panning in Azusa Canyon and metal detecting at parks and beaches. Steve and Mary live in Big Bear City, California about 30 minutes from Holcomb Valley where the coin was found. They have been hunting in the valley for the last 13+ years and continue to pursue that area due to the amount of relics that have been found. They also enjoy hunting in the Randsburg area. Steve uses a Garrett GTI 2500 while Mary's detector is a Garrett Ace 250.





An 1865-S Half Dollar with Multiple Reverse Cuds Discovered

By Rich Uhrich, LSCC #968

At the last minute at a recent coin show, I was examining some coins from another dealer. I saw a Fine-12 1865-S half WB-102, WB-2, with two full cuds on the reverse. I hadn't seen such a coin before, and the coin was reasonably priced, so I bought it. The first cud is over TE of UNITED and includes the denticles. The second cud is over STATE(S) and the denticles can still be seen. The coin also has die cracks from the rim to U of UNITED, thru (STAT)ES OF A(MERICA), and from a denticle near the wing tip to the base of H(ALF). See the pictures below.



When I returned home from the show, I checked my copy of *The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars* by Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert, and it did not mention any such coin. I also checked *A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties, Volume I, San Francisco Branch Mint*, by Bill Bugert, and there was no mention of a die state that included two cuds on the reverse.

I emailed Seated Half Dollar expert Bill Bugert about the coin. He stated that the 1865-S WB-2 die state with cuds was unknown to him. Bill checked with Randy Wiley and Dick Osburn and neither of them had seen an 1865-S with two cuds on the reverse. So now I knew I had discovered something new, because these 3 experts with a combined 100 years of researching Liberty Seated half dollars had not seen such a coin before. And with these two cuds, it's not a variety that would be overlooked.

I considered keeping the coin, but decided it should go to a collector, so I listed it on my website, and subsequently sold it. It now belongs to a serious collector of Liberty Seated half dollars. If anyone has a similar coin, I would be interested in hearing about it.



New Blood for Old Coins

By Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016
Director, Northeast Region

A good deal of brainstorming has been going on behind the scenes on how to build on the success of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club and thereby increase interest and awareness of Liberty Seated coinage.

One idea that was put forward on the club chat site was to interest Young Numismatist (YN's) in seated coinage. Gerry Fortin asked me to write up some of my experiences with our YN program at the Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club and share some of my thoughts on how we might proceed if the LSCC chose to interest YN's in seated coinage. We can all agree that the future of the hobby is dependent on YN's coming into the hobby and becoming interested in different areas of collecting. As Liberty Seated collectors it behooves us to help create an interest for seated coinage in these YN's. The ANA recognizes the need to bring more YN's into the hobby and has developed programs to generate interest.

My local club was interested in building a YN program. I went to the 2008 ANA convention in Baltimore and decided to attend a seminar on attracting YN's to the hobby. The seminar was run by Dr. Scott Rottinghaus (now a board member of the ANA). Scott was a new member of our local club having just moved to the area, I knew that he was heavily involved with the ANA summer seminars for YN's. Several ideas were put forward during that seminar and the one that really hit home was "putting a coin in the hands of the youngsters". Many LSCC members have heard Bill Bugert tell how his grandmother gave him his first Liberty Seated Half Dollar, and look at the trouble that day in history has caused!

The Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club tried having Coin Expos at the local library with mixed results. It worked best in conjunction with some other event such as an art festival that would provide a ready made crowd. Even so our focus was youngsters and it became apparent to us that we needed to go to where the youngsters were. That realization

brought us to our present program where we go to a local school and design interactive and educational displays for the youngsters, usually with a theme. In 2009 with the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, Lincoln was our theme and I brought in seated coinage as "The coins of Lincoln's life" in hopes that the kids could identify with the idea that Lincoln was a real person that used coins just as they do and these strange looking coins were the type of coins he used. Other members brought in Lincoln cents and other Lincoln and Civil War memorabilia. Larry our local club President does a demonstration on the different weights of pre and post 1982 Lincoln cents that the kids always enjoy.

This year may have been our biggest success yet. Our theme was "Coins in Time". The coins ranged from the time of Christ up to today. Our hook was getting the coins into the hands of the kids. We had a grab bag of coins with 5 "special" coins such as the oldest coin, fake coin, smallest etc... I brought in my microscope so the special coins could be identified by the youngsters and redeemed for their prizes. Even the non-special coins drew interest with the youngsters as they discovered coins they had never seen before and now were their very own. Studying their new coin under a microscope was a great success; they could see the design detail and appreciate their new coin. We've already received an invitation to come back next year.

Getting a coin into the hands of YN's is the key. The LSCC's situation as a national series related club is different from a local coin club. In some ways it is easier. The ANA and many local clubs are working to bring in youngsters of all ages that have not had an interest in numismatics. The LSCC would, if this program is pursued, engage YN's already in the hobby. Our target group should be a little bit older (13 to 18). Our program by necessity needs to be run in conjunction with LSCC meetings which are held at coin shows. The YN's coming to

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the shows should be our focus. They already have an interest in numismatics which gives us a leg up, now we just have to plant the seed for seated coinage. The best way to do that is to put a Liberty Seated coin in their hands. However more needs to be done, you can't just dump a coin in the youngsters hand and expect an interest to develop. Knowledge of the series is instrumental to make that interest grow and take root. There are many ways to accomplish this.

One way is to hold a spelling bee of sorts for coins. With two or more YN's questions could be posed to the YN's, questions that can be answered right out the Red Book or other books specific to Liberty Seated coinage. Naturally we don't expect these YN's to be experts on Liberty Seated coinage so we give them the Book necessary to use and let them find the answers. With a prize of a free Seated coin as the impetus the competition should be spirited.

Another way of interesting YN's in seated coinage could involve the use of a microscope to study the coins and identify subtle differences in design (I.E. drapery or no drapery). We could list three differences for the YN's to find and win a prize.

A demonstration of fake seated material and genuine coins to be weighed and diagnostically studied might bring about not only the interest in seated material we are after but also serve the YN's in learning about market realities and how thorough diagnostic knowledge is key to being an informed consumer.

A discussion of design and fabrication of the 1800's along with hands on microscope work could also prove fruitful.

History is also a way to grab the YN's. We have the Civil War and its coinage to talk about and speculate as to a coin being in the pocket of a soldier in battle. There is the gold rush of 1849 and its effect on Liberty Seated coinage; or the magic of the old west with Carson City coinage. Perhaps members have seated coins with a Bullitt hole, chop marks, or love tokens; they're all interesting to YN's who may never have seen anything like them before.

A starter set of Liberty Seated Dimes does-

n't have to break the bank of a YN. With some imagination and enthusiasm interesting YN's in seated coinage can be possible. To do that club leaders need the material to hand out to YN's. Many club members have low grade, common date coins that YN's would prize just as many of you did when you first began. Volunteers will be needed to assist Regional Directors in this effort. Engaging YN's in your passion for seated coinage can be a very rewarding experience. If the LSCC leadership chooses to pursue a YN program for the LSCC member support will be needed to make it a success.

A new YN program will entail certain logistics, physical needs such as seated material for hand outs to YN's as well as demonstration materials and equipment are matters that can be attended to with the support of club members and leadership. Policies and By-Laws will have to be up-dated by club officers. Some thought will be needed to affect changes that reflect our current society. Thirty-seven years is a long time, club policies, and By-Laws should be looked at with or without a YN program.

The level of risk in making the LSCC more accessible to YN's is low, we have the semi controlled environment of a coin show/club meeting that should include a parent or guardian. That said a few well thought out policies are in order to safeguard youth and club members.

Suggested Policies concerning Young Numismatists and the LSCC

1. All Young Numismatists (minors under 18 years of age) must be accompanied by a parent or guardian in order to attend an LSCC sponsored event or function.

2. All Young Numismatist programs sponsored by the LSCC must have double coverage. (I.E. at least 2 LSCC members)

3. Under no circumstances is an LSCC member allowed to take charge of, or responsibility for, a minor to whom they are un-related while attending or running a club sponsored function or event.

4. Any un-accompanied minor attending an LSCC function or event should be directed to get a parent/guardian or be escorted to a responsible secu-

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rity person or show organizer.

5. Disregard or violation of club policy requirements in matters involving Young Numismatists/minors can be grounds for expulsion from the LSCC.

The ANA and the LSCC

A closer relationship with the ANA could be beneficial with regard to building an LSCC YN program. The ANA YN outreach program offers the LSCC a wider scope to attract YN's and interest them in Liberty Seated coinage. Now may be an opportune time to act as the ANA is currently revamping its YN correspondence course. It would be great to have a section devoted to Liberty Seated coinage. Perhaps we could sponsor an ANA program on seated coinage like the Ancients and Coppers have; or maybe a prize for the best ANA YN display on Liberty Seated coinage. The opportunities are there

for us to take advantage of.

Conclusion

The ANA is attempting to attract YN's to the hobby, an LSCC YN program would be a logical extension of the ANA's efforts. First the YN's become interested in numismatics and then hopefully we give them a more definite direction for their collecting goals. It is important to realize that efforts to attract YN's may not bear fruit immediately. The seeds of interest take time to grow. The work of bringing Liberty Seated coinage into the hearts and minds of the next generation of collectors is a worthwhile endeavor that benefits the LSCC and the YN's. The decision of whether or not to pursue a YN program ultimately rests with club officers and the Marketing Director; it would be helpful to them to know members will support a YN outreach program. Please contact Gerry Fortin and let him know your thoughts on this subject. Your input is very important to the process.





Collecting Alternative Forms of Liberty Seated Coinage: A Letter to the Editor

From James Sneddon, LSCC #1768

I was wonder whether there are has been a serious Liberty Seated Half Dollar collector who, in addition to die marriage collecting, also expanded into collecting the alternative forms of Liberty Seated Half Dollars such as Love Tokens, counterstamped seated half dollars, Potty seated half dollars and chop-marked seated half dollars. It is not common knowledge outside of the Chopmark Collectors Club, but the Liberty Seated Half Dollar is the one denomination of U.S. coins that has more known dates with chopmarks than the Trade Dollar. The U.S. Trade Dollar is known to exist on the seventeen business strike dates of 1873 to 1878 plus one specimen each of an 1879 and 1881 proof Trade Dollar with chopmarks.

Several years ago, the editor of the Chopmark Collectors Club Newsletter reported collectors had told him of 29 different Liberty Seated Half Dollars in collections of 64 coins in all for half dollar dates of 1843 to 1875. The number ranged from 1409 coins on the dates. Since then, five other dates have turned up making at least 34 different dates. It surprised the editor of the wide variety of Liberty Seated Half Dollars.

You can put in context by terms of known numbers of the most common chopmarked seated half dollars, the 1858-S (9 coins) and 1863-S (7 coins) by comparing it to the rarest business strike chopmarked Trade Dollar, the 1878-CC. I know that at least 11 distinct chopmarked 1878-CC Trade Dollars exist. There is a huge price difference between a chopmarked 1878-CC Trade Dollar and a common date chopmarked seated half dollar because a very sizeable number of collectors are putting together sets of business strike chopmarked Trade Dollars. It has evolved where a lot of U.S. Trade Dollar collectors have realized what visionaries like John Willem and James Vernon Epps knew a long time ago: collecting Trade Dollars with and without chopmarks go hand in hand. Both John Willem and James Vernon Epps were well ahead of their time when it came to collecting chopmarked Trade Dollars. I be-

lieve James V. Epps ended his U.S. Trade Dollar research and collecting too early. He should have kept on collecting because it is obvious that on the one 1877 date, he saw the differences of the 2M and 2L reverses. If he collected more specimens of the 1877 date, he would have noticed the different obverses and reverse 2M and 2L combinations. If he would have continued collecting and researching U.S. Trade Dollars especially in the alternative forms, he would have evolved into another kind of Trade Dollar collector. From what I have found out, his chopmarked portion of his collection was vastly underappreciated and did not gain wide acceptance until more than a dozen years later.

In my own collecting life, I found out that eight years of intense research may not be enough time to learn about a lot of the different aspects of U.S. Trade Dollar collecting. In my own case, it was over six years before I got my first chopmarked Trade Dollar after I began collecting them in earnest. Over twenty years before I started collecting them intensely, I had an informal collection. In the late 1980's, I realized that U.S. Trade Dollars needed to have more studying done on them because they were a complex series.

Because I really started to study the chopmarked coins of the U.S. Trade Dollar series, I saw what John Willem and James V. Epps saw in chopmarked Trade Dollars. Largely because of James V. Epps' studies, the chopmarked Trade Dollars moved to the forefront of my own collection by the Fall of 1998, I crossed the line where chopmarked Trade Dollars became the dominate part of my U.S. Trade Dollar collection. It took on a life of its own and until the recent additions of potty Trade Dollars comprised about 65% of my Trade Dollar collection. If the James V. Epps collection had sold in 2004, it would have been one of the great collections ever assembled especially if he had continued researching and adding to his Trade Dollar collection.

Joe Kirchgessner's survey will show that

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James Vernon Epps' research and study had a very profound effect on U.S. Trade Dollars with chopmarks. I am not completely sure Joe Kirchgessner knows the intensity and competitiveness that chopmarked Trade Dollars have been collected since the late 1990's because it is not the Trade Dollar world he lives in. Chopmarked Trade Dollar collectors tend to be ridiculed and disbelieved especially when they come out in the open with reports of large holdings of them and this is something I know to be fact because it happens among chopmarked coin collectors. I suspect that a couple of other members besides myself wanted somebody to know of their own extensive holdings reported where they would not be called lairs for saying so. I also suspect James V. Epps collection and study of the chopmarked Trade Dollars had a great deal of influence on them as it has on me.

Because of my own curiosity on alternative forms of U.S. Trade Dollar collecting, I recently became aware of a lot wider range of potty coins from the dime to the Trade Dollar. In the case of the potty Trade Dollar, I have conclusive proof that 13 of the 17 business strike Trade Dollars exist as potty coins dated 1873 to 1878 plus 1879 and 1880 circulated proof potty coins. I have been able since last Fall and early this year to add 10 more potty Trade Dollars to my collection where I have 8 different potty Trade Dollar dates including my first P and CC potty coins plus 3 mainline varieties of potty Trade Dollars. I have also made a deal where, when I get the coins, I will have 12 of the 17 business strike Trade Dollars in my possession as potty coins with at least one more mainline variety. I have been finally able to add potty dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollars that are seated potty coins to my collection also which have not been able to do until recently.

In my own pursuit of potty coin knowledge, I am now aware that around 25 different Liberty Seated Half Dollar dates exist as potty coins. I have to wonder if there is a serious Liberty Seated Half Dollar collector who has substantial holdings of chopmarked and potty seated half dollars. I now know that at least one CC date exists as a chopmarked coin and at least 2 CC dates plus one variety

exist as potty seated half dollars. In the case of the CC potty seated half dollars, they are now in my own collection along with a potty CC seated dime. I now have conclusive proof that potty CC coins exist on a dime, quarter, half dollar, and Trade Dollar. Outside of the quarter, I have 3 of the 64 known potty coins. I have to wonder if potty CC 20-cent pieces and Liberty Seated Dollars exist.

A year ago, I would have sworn that a counterstamped CC 20-cent piece and a CC counterstamped seated dollar did likely not exist. They would be the two silver denominations least likely to exist as counterstamped CC coins, yet I have them in my collection. The potty CC 20-cent piece and potty CC Liberty Seated Dollar also see unlikely to exist, but you have to wonder now if they exist somewhere in the numismatic world. Do you know whether a CC counterstamped seated half dollar exists because I would like to add one to my collection? [Editor: *How about it, readers?*]

I have to wonder just what was in the Willem Collection at its peak because it was pare down to examples of the various mainline varieties. I specifically wonder how many chopmarked Trade Dollars were in the Willem Collection at its peak. I have to wonder if the James V. Epps Collection was also pared down over the years because what was sold in the 1984 Krueger Auction is different from the photographs from the Epps Collection loaned to the LSCC in the Spring of 1999 for study by numismatic scholars. There were pictures of 113 Trade Dollars in the Epps Collection then and only 90 coins were in the 1984 Krueger auction and all of those were not from the Epps Collection. The chopmarked 1878-CC sold in the Krueger Auction was the John Willem's Christensen Auction coin and was not part of the Epps Collection. In fact, the chopmarked 1878-CC Trade Dollar was sold privately to LSCC member John Dreyer in March 1984 which he pointed out in a letter to the *Gobrecht Journal* Editor, You only need to compare what was reported in issue 75 of the *Gobrecht Journal* and compare the lots that were sold in the Krueger Auction and you would know how many coins were actually from the Epps Collection.

In my own case, I had to break down both the chopmarked and unchopmarked portions of my col-

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Subscriber Correspondence

From Tim Coffey: After reading the first page of this month's E-G, I'd like to make a suggestion to you and John about making the *Gobrecht Journal* Collective Volumes available as pdfs. I have the first few in hardcopy and I've always wanted to catch up and get 3-5, but have hesitated because they are still somewhat difficult to use when I want to locate pertinent information on a specific series and date. If pdfs were available, I would organize them into subgroups by series, such that a Collective Volume Half Dimes, C.V. Dimes, etc. could be created.

I have also been tempted to scan the various books I have on seated coinage and reorganize them into more easily digestible references on the various series, down to each date and MM. The thought of interleaving pertinent articles from *The Gobrecht Journal* becomes possible, too.

Just throwing in my 4 cents worth (2 cents before inflation).

Editor: *No other letters. How about it, readers? Please consider taking a few moments to send in your thoughts about something in this issue of the E-Gobrecht or just something in general on Liberty seated coinage? Others will enjoy hearing from you.*

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lection and report them separately because of the number of coins involved. I also have to wonder if Joe Kirchgessner included love tokens, counterstamped Trade Dollars, and potty Trade Dollars in the survey. In my own case, at the time I reported two love token Trade Dollars and three potty Trade Dollars separately as part of my collection which has changed with respect to both counterstamped and potty Trade Dollars where some have been added because of my recent exposure to potty seated dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollars. I have taken the opportunity to add a number of each to my collection. In the case of the half dollar, I have added a

half dozen into my collection which are the first potty seated half dollars I have ever had the chance to own. I have heard of them over the years, but until recently I have not been able to purchase any. The purchases include two distinct 1876-CC varieties and a very nice 1877-CC. I wanted them specifically because it is very unusual kind of Carson City coin to own. If there had been more CC potty half dollars I would have bought them also. I have to seriously wonder if there are alternative form Liberty Seated Half Dollar specialists around because sizeable collections in both potty seated and chopmarked seated half dollars can be assembled. Do you know of any?



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Liberty Seated Quarter Cuds & Rotated Dies Wanted: Other U.S. series of interest as well. Please reply directly to Paul Kluth @ pcmdmp@msn.com or to the e-mail address of the *E-Gobrecht* newsletter.

Rotated Reverse Seated Dimes Wanted: I am looking for rotated reverse Liberty Seated dimes. Any interested parties can email Jason Feldman at jason@seated.org

Wanted to Buy: Nice, problem-free bust and seated material. We specialize in affordable collector coins. Puro's Coins and Jewelry, web: www.vtcoins.com, email:

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Seated Dime Die Varieties Wanted: I am paying high prices for Seated Dimes with major cuds, die cracks, and rotated reverses. Contact David Thomas at davethomas333@hotmail.com or 1-949-929-2830.

Half Dollar Die Variety Books for Sale:
I have two new books.

- The first details all known San Francisco Branch Mint LS Half Dollar die marriages (228) with narratives, photos of diagnostics, rarity ratings, background information, etc. and includes nearly 1,400 photographs. Written with Special Edits by and Consultations with Randy Wiley, this book is a large 313 pages in 8.5 by 11 inch size, is printed on high quality 100# anthem gloss paper, and is available in 3-hole punched format (ready for your binder) or plastic comb binding format.
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- Copies of either are available now for \$45 plus \$5 postage for U.S. delivery (Specify which format you desire) directly from me at Bill Bugert, 1230 Red Rock Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325 (717) 337-0229.



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Mark your calendar !

- **June 17-19, 2010** - LSCC Table and Exhibit, Whitman Coin & Collectibles Baltimore Expo, Booth 1148
- **June 18, 2010** - LSCC Regional meeting, Whitman Coin & Collectibles Baltimore Expo, Friday, 9 AM, room 301.
- **July 10, 2010** - LSCC Regional meeting, F.U.N. Show, Orlando, FL, Saturday, 9 AM, room TBD.
- **August 12, 2010** - LSCC Annual meeting at the 2010 ANA Worlds' Fair of Money, Boston, MA, Thursday, 9 AM, room TBD.
- **October 29, 2010** - LSCC Regional meeting, CoinFest Show, Stamford, CT, Friday, 9 AM, room TBD.

LSCC

To encourage, promote, and dispense numismatic knowledge of the Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.

LSCC Membership Information. Dues are still \$20 per year and include three issues of the *Gobrecht Journal*, an award winning numismatic publication. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *Gobrecht Journal* mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, correspond with the LSCC Secretary.

Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to the LSCC President.

Information, input, comments, or suggestions for improvements to this *E-Gobrecht* are actively solicited from anyone and may be sent to the Editor, *E-Gobrecht*.

To be added or removed from the *E-Gobrecht* mailing list, send an email message with the words "Subscribe/Unsubscribe" in the subject line of the message to: wb8cpy@arrl.net.

Wanted: Material for this newsletter!

Please consider submitting something for print. It need not be elaborate; it can be something as simple as a short note on your favorite variety, neat find, nice cherry pick, happenings at a coin show, rare Liberty Seated coinage coming up for auction, etc. If you are interested in it, rest assured, others will be too! Sharing information is a goal of this newsletter and you need not be an experienced or famous writer to submit something. This is a continuing plea.

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